



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 8

1595 Wynkoop Street
DENVER, CO 80202-1129
Phone 800-227-8917
<http://www.epa.gov/region08>

Libby-IG

1246913 - R8 SDMS

AUG 31 2011

Ref: 8OC

The Honorable Max Baucus
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Baucus:


Thank you for your letter of August 5, 2011, to EPA Administrator Lisa Jackson concerning the EPA Inspector General's report on our public engagement efforts in the Libby, Montana, community. I assure you that Administrator Jackson and I are committed to open, accurate and meaningful public participation in the Superfund process for the Libby Asbestos Superfund site, and we appreciate receiving your observations about the Report.

We cooperated fully and worked closely with the Inspector General's review of our community involvement in Libby. The EPA Region 8 plans to fully implement the recommendations made in the Evaluation Report. We will provide a written response to the Inspector General that includes our implementation plan before November 1, 2011.

In our review of the report, we were reassured to note that the Inspector General acknowledged the EPA Region 8's broad communication and involvement efforts and made clear that they exceed regulatory requirements for Superfund community involvement. At the same time, we recognize that it is always possible to improve.

We appreciate your continued interest in the EPA's cleanup actions in Libby. If you or your staff would like additional information, please contact me or Sandy Fells, Regional Congressional Liaison, at 303-312-6604, or fells.sandy@epa.gov.

Sincerely,


James B. Martin
Regional Administrator



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The Honorable Jon Tester
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Tester:

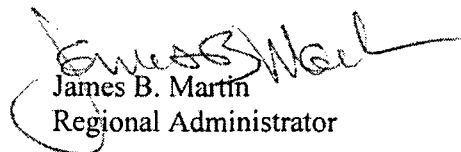
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